

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 301602Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 753

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5640

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, FI, CGEN

SUBJECT: SIGNING OF CONSULAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GDR AND FINLAND

1. MAJOR EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS REPORT SIGNATURE
IN BERLIN ON APRIL 28, 1975, OF CONSULAR AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND FINLAND.
EWALD MOLDT, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE GDR, AND AMBASSADOR PAUL GUSTAFSSON, LEADER OF
THE LAW DIVISION OF THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY,
SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. ACCORDING
TO REPORTS, ARTICLE TWO OF THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT
RELATES TO NATIONALITY. THE CONVENTION IS SAID
TO BE FOUNDED UPON THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGN
EQUALITY AMONG STATES AND ON THE PRINCIPLES OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE COVENTION WOULD ENTER INTO
FORCE 30 DAYS AFTER THE EXCHANGE OF RATIFICATIONS IN
HELSINKI.

2. COMMENT. FINLAND'S AGREEMENT TO CONCLUDE A
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CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH THE GDR COULD CONCEIVABLY

LEAD TO PRESSURE ON OTHER SCANDIVAVIAN COUNTRIES TO
DO THE SAME. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE FINNISH DCM
APRIL 29, HE SAID THAT THE MATTER OF NATIONALITY IS
COVERED IN THE SAME WAY IN THE FINNISH-GDR CONVENTION
AS IT WAS IN THE AUSTRIAN-GDR CONVENTION, I.E.,
EACH STATE ACCEPTS THE OTHER'S DEFINITION OF WHO IS A
CITIZEN OF THAT STATE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE FINNS
EXPECTED MANY CASES OF DUAL NATIONALITY, THE FINNISH
DCM RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY AT THE
PPRESENT TIME BUT THAT THEY LEFT THE MATTER OPEN IN THE
CONVENTION FOR MUTUAL DECISION SHOULD SUCH CASES ARISE.
THE FINNISH DCM ALSO STATED THAT THEY WERE UNDER VERY
STRONG PRESSUE FROM THE GDR OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
CLAUSE ON NATIONALITY AND THAT, GIVEN THE AUSTRIAN
PRECEDENT, THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL IN A
POSITION TO REJECT THE GDR PROPOSAL. THE EMBASSY IS
ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE TEXT OF ARTICLE TWO RELATING
TO NATIONALITY AND WILL TRANSMIT WHEN AVAILABLE. GROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TREATY SIGNATURE, CONSULAR AGREEMENTS, CONSULAR RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN05640
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750152-0716
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975041/aaaaaanp.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIGNING OF CONSULAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GDR AND FINLAND
TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, GC, FI, (MOLDT, EWALD), (GUSTAFSSON, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006